

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 03440 260307Z

65-61

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 AID-05 /082 W
----- 100988

P 250750Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4081

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS PRIORITY

COMUSSAG NKP THAILAND PRIORITY

CINCPAC HONOLULU PRIORITY

COMPAC HONOLULU PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 3440

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SAIGON IMMEDIATE 25 MAR 75 REPEATED

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BIEN HOA 208

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, VS

SUBJ: MILITARY SITUATION IN MR3

REF: BIEN HOA 207

1. THIS MESSAGE IS BASED ON A CONVERSATION WITH MR3 CHIEF OF STAFF, COL MINH, AND DEPUTY MR3 COMMANDER, MG HIEU, AT 1000 HOURS MAR 25. APART FROM A RENEWED ATTEMPT TO CUT ROUTE 22 IN TAY NINH PROVINCE AT TRA VO, AND DESTRUCTION OF 7 MORE NVA TANKS AT CHON THANH, THERE WAS NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN THE SITUATION IN MR3 AND MILITARY INCIDENTS DURING THE LAST 24 HOURS WERE AT AN UNUSUALLY LOW LEVEL OF 32.

2. DURING THE MORNING OF MAR 25 THE NVA/VC MOUNTED AN ATTACK ON ROUTE 22 AT TRA VO VIC XT325351. THE MR3 TOC LOG SHOWS THAT
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PAGE 02 SAIGON 03440 260307Z

RADIO CONTACT WAS LOST WITH THE RF OUTPOST AT 0730 HOURS BUT

MG HIEU CHARACTERIZED THIS AS A LIGHT ATTACK WHICH HE DID NOT REGARD AS OF MAJOR SIGNIFICANCE AT THE MOMENT. HE SAID IT DID NOT REPRESENT A BREAKTHROUGH TO ROUTE 22 BY THE NVA FORCES WHICH HAVE BEEN ATTACKING LTL-26 SOME 10 KMS TO THE NORTHEAST. AN AIR AMERICA HELO CARRING CONGEN PERSONNEL TO TAY NINH ALMOST GOT CAUGHT IN THE CROSSFIRE IN THIS ENGAGEMENT AND ESCAPED WITHOUT DAMAGE OR INJURY BUT REPORTED HEAVY MORTAR FIRE AT TRA VO.

3. AT CHON THANH IN SOUTHERN BINH LONG PROVINCE, THE NVA/VC RENEWED THE ATTACK ON RANGERS AT 2200 HOURS MAR 24. MR3 HQ REPORTS THAT THE NVA/VC LOST ANOTHER 7 TANKS, 80 MEN KIA AND ONE CAPTURED BEFORE BREAKING OFF THE ENGAGEMENT. GVN LOSSES WERE 8 KIA AND 27 WIA.

4. IN THE EASTERN PROVINCES THE SITUATION WAS QUIET EXCEPT FOR AN NVA/VC MOVE TO INFILTRATE DONG TAM III RESETTLEMENT SITE IN EASTERN LONG KHANH PROVINCE WHICH HAS BEEN CUT OFF FROM THE REST OF THE PROVINCE BY NVA/VC INTERDICTION OF QL-1 TO THE WEST AT SUOI CAT.

5. WE LEARN THAT THE 3RD BN, 7TH ARVN REGT, WHICH SUFFERED VERY HEAVY CASUALTIES MAR 23 HAS BEEN WITHDRAWN FROM LTL-26 IN TAY NINH TO THE 5TH DIV BASE AT LAI KHE FOR REPLACEMENTS AND RE-FITTING.

6. AT 0930 HOURS ON MAR 24 AN RF COMPANY WAS AMBUSHED A FEW KMS SOUTHEAST OF CHOLON JUST OFF ROUTE 4 VICINITY XS743845 SUFFERING 15 KIA AND 5 WIA WITH UNKNOWN NVA/VC RESULTS.

5. BIEN HOA TOOK 2 ROUNDS OF ROCKETS AT 1015 MAR 25 (THE ONLY ROCKETS DURING THE PAST 24 HOURS). THEY FELL WITHOUT DAMAGE OR CASUALTIES JUST OUTSIDE THE NORTHEAST PERIMETER OF THE AIR BASE.

8. THE LOW LEVEL OF INCIDENTS IN MR3 IS GENERALLY BELIEVED TO BE DUE TO RESUPPLY OF THE NVA/VC IN PREPARATION FOR THE RENEWAL OF OFFENSIVE ACTION ON SEVERAL FRONTS IN MR3.

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